

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING JAY PIERSON

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jay Pierson, who has dedicated the past 34 years to this legislative body and our Nation.

As a floor assistant, Jay's knowledge of the House rules and procedure, and the guidance he provides Members and staff have allowed this institution to run smoothly in service to the American people. As a dedicated, revered, and unwavering presence on House floor, Jay himself has become an institution.

Members and staff on both sides of the aisle call Jay their friend for his assistance and his incredible kindness. Known not only for his expertise on House rules and procedure, Jay is a historian of the House and holds a doctorate in English. None may know Jay better than the staff of the Library of Congress from whom he is constantly borrowing and returning books.

Mr. Speaker, I know I am joined by current and former members of Congress and staff when I say that we all feel honored to have worked with Jay. I thank Jay very much for his service and I wish he, his wife JoAnn, and his sons Joel and Jeff the best as they enjoy more time together.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ILLINOIS POISON CENTER

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th anniversary of the Illinois Poison Center (IPC), the oldest poison center in the United States. Their services in poison treatment and prevention have made the Illinois Poison Center a great contributor to the Illinois emergency medical community.

Increased awareness of the potential dangers of over the counter and prescription medications as well as common household products is a crucial step toward better poison safety and prevention, especially for children. Nearly half of the 77,000 poisonings reported to the Illinois Poison Center last year involved children under the age of five. Most of these cases could be prevented by greater awareness of potential risks posed by household substances. The Illinois Poison Center has proven its dedication to educating the citizens of Illinois in better poison prevention.

Thanks to its trained medical staff, the Illinois Poison Center treats over 90 percent of calls reporting poisoning over the phone, reducing the need for doctor's visits and emergency room care.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing March 2013 as Poison Prevention Month in Illinois, and in commending the Illinois Poison Center on 6 decades of excellence in poison education and treatment to the State of Illinois.

CONDEMNING THE HORRIFIC ATTACKS IN NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT, AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT AND PRAYERS FOR ALL THOSE IMPACTED BY THIS TRAGEDY

SPEECH OF

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2012

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 833, and in support of the greater Newtown community in the wake of the tragic Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting.

Twenty seven lives have been lost and countless others have been affected by the shooting in Newtown, Connecticut on December 15, 2012.

Twenty first-graders were killed in their classroom.

And teachers and school administrators died while protecting their students.

As a nation, we are heartsick.

As a mother and grandmother of eight, I cannot even begin to fathom what the families of Newtown are going through.

As they have just begun the long and slow process of grieving and healing, our nation's hearts, prayers, and deepest sympathies are with them.

This horrible crime reminds us that our time here is precious and short.

And it reminds us that even though we cannot prevent every single senseless violent act, we must come together to all we can to reduce the gun violence that contributed to these losses.

For too long we have neglected to take the steps necessary to stem the damage and harm inflicted by gun violence.

I pray that this horrific event will remind us that our highest priority is to keep our children safe—and right now we are not doing enough.

There is so much more that we can do to protect our families and communities from gun violence.

But there is also much more that we can and must do to strengthen our mental health care systems—to treat those in need, avert future violence, and support those whose lives have been affected by it.

In the coming days, weeks, and months, and as time passes for the community of Newtown, the nation will reflect on this tragedy.

I hope that through this soul searching we will conclude that we have a moral responsibility to take strong, effective action to reduce the harm caused by gun violence.

We owe it to the victims and their families to take every step possible to prevent another horrific tragedy like this one.

If not now, when?

IN RECOGNITION OF SERGEANT BRIAN J. NELSON

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marine Corps Master Sergeant Brian J. Nelson as he is presented with the Purple Heart on December 19, 2012 in Falmouth, Massachusetts.

The Purple Heart, a military decoration awarded by the President, is reserved for members of the Armed Forces who have been injured by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy. It is one of the highest honors that our servicemen and women may receive. Sergeant Nelson was wounded by an improvised explosive device in Anbar Province, Iraq, on September 30, 2006. He was in the middle of serving his second tour of duty in Iraq at that time. However, this did not stop Sergeant Nelson from returning to active duty, as he deployed a third time to Afghanistan following his recovery. Sergeant Nelson's heroism and commitment to serving our country is truly remarkable, and throughout his military career he has served as an embodiment of real patriotism.

Sergeant Nelson is a native of Cape Cod, having grown up in Falmouth. Before graduating from Falmouth High School, he was selected to be captain of the both the school's cross country and track teams. He then received a bachelor's degree from the University of New Hampshire in chemical engineering, an accomplishment that would later assist him during his tenure in the Armed Forces. For nearly a decade, Sergeant Nelson spent his summers as a lifeguard on the beaches of Falmouth and Dennis before enlisting in the Marine Corps in November of 2003. Two years later, he deployed from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, for combat operations in Anbar Province, Iraq, and returned to that region the following year. After recovering from the injuries he sustained in 2006 and his promotion to Sergeant, he deployed for a third time from Camp Pendleton, California, to Helmand Province in Afghanistan. Here, Sergeant Nelson worked as a civil affairs development officer and as the coordinator in the experimental Poppyseed Biofuel Program. Since his return to the United States, Sergeant Nelson has been serving in the Marine Corps Combat Water Survival Instructor Course in Quantico, Virginia.

Sergeant Nelson has earned much recognition for his service to his country. In addition to the Purple Heart, Sergeant Nelson has also received three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals and the Combat Action

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